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EGYPT: CAIRO IS APPARENTLY CONCERNED OVER AN ADVERSE REACTION TO NASIR'S MAY DAY SPEECH.

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EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MAHMUD RIYAD TOLD THE CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN INTEREST SECTION IN CAIRO ON 2 MAY THAT NASIR'S SPEECH WAS "AN APPEAL FOR PEACE" DIRECTED AT PRESIDENT NIXON. RIYAD STATED THAT THE SPEECH REPRESENTED THE OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN POSITION AND DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY THREAT IMPLIED IN STATEMENTS WARNING AGAINST FURTHER US MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL.

NASIR'S APPEAL ON FRIDAY TO THE PRESIDENT TO "ORDER ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES" FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN A MAIN TENET OF THE EGYPTIAN POSITION. CAIRO APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE US HAS THE POWER AND INFLUENCE TO FORCE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW. IN THE EGYPTIAN VIEW, THE EVACUATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE SOLVING OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM ARE TWO OF THE PRIMARY ISSUES THAT MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE A LASTING ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

THE EGYPTIANS CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSURE THE WORLD, AND THE US IN PARTICULAR, THAT THEY DESIRE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST IMPASSE DESPITE FREQUENT MILITANT PUBLIC STATEMENTS. BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS OF HIS ARMED FORCES, NASIR REALIZES THAT A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO HIM WOULD BE HIS BEST HOPE OF REGAINING THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

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